

**CANYONS SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
March 29, 2016**

The Board of Education of Canyons School District met in a study session and business meeting on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 beginning at 5 pm at the Canyons Support Services Building, 9351 S. 300 East, Sandy, UT 84070

Those present were:

Clareen Arnold, Board Member
Robert Green, Board Member
Amber Shill, Board Member
Sherril Taylor, Board President
Nancy Tingey, Board Second Vice President
Steve Wrigley, Board Vice President
James Briscoe, Superintendent
Leon Wilcox, Chief Financial Officer
Dan Harper, General Counsel
Charles Evans, Director External Affairs

Electronic Attendance:

Chad Iverson, Board Member

1. Study Session--5 pm

A. Mill Hollow Update--Leon Wilcox

- Leon Wilcox explained that Mill Hollow is located east of Heber City, 77 miles from CAB East. The information he shared was supplied by the Granite School District Accounting Department.
- Granite has an agreement with the Forest Service. The Forest Service owns the land and Granite constructed the buildings on the land. Granite is responsible for maintaining and operating the buildings, the trails, the water and sewer. There is a lodge, cabins and trails.
- Granite stopped operating this facility after the 2014 school year due to budget constraints. The last two years of operations, they averaged a loss of \$300,000. Therefore, Granite was required to subsidize the program. They could not charge enough to cover their expenses. Granite has a lot of needs and felt it was the best option to discontinue the program.
- The Granite Facilities Department provided a list of estimated costs to get the facilities up to code. This would require about a \$2 million infusion. Necessary improvements include a new water tank, upgrades to the cabins, cafeteria and lodge and drilling a new well. There would be an ongoing cost to keep the facilities up to date.
- The administration does not recommend that we take over this facility. Patrons contacted us requesting that we look at this program.
- Mr. Wilcox said this was a program that the Granite community liked. They tried to subsidize it as long as they could but after the recession they could no longer do that. Mill Hollow now competes with numerous activities available for students to participate in.
- Mr. Wrigley asked what the educational purpose was for the camp. Mr. Wilcox said he believes 10-14 year old students had science summer camps there. We would have to supply teachers for a program like that. It was also used as a retreat for student body officers or sports teams.
- Mr. Green said we could have a summer program that would not require the \$2 million start-up costs that could benefit the students more.
- Nancy Tingey said online it looks like there is a non-profit group running programs at these facilities now. Mrs. Tingey said we need to discuss if we want to invest in this property and have a long-term commitment. Another option is to find out what programs are currently being offered and let our community know these programs are available if they want to participate.

- Clareen Arnold said that they had a facility like this in California. She explained how it was used year-round for activities that were tied to their curriculum. Mr. Wilcox said it would be difficult to use the facility in the winter.
- Granite is trying to find a partner to take over this facility. If they cannot find a long-term solution, they may have to take down the buildings.
- Mr. Wrigley said when he considered this proposal he tried to determine how this would fit into our educational mission and had a hard time justifying it.
- Superintendent Briscoe said he feels the biggest problems are transportation and finding teachers willing to supervise students. There is a reason Granite is not going to continue the program.
- Chad Iverson said last fall he spoke to the Salem Hills Cross Country Team in Utah County. They took the whole team to property Nebo owns in Hobbie Creek Canyon. It would be nice to have a place where our teams could go to have pre-season camps. However, the initial infrastructure cost to get it up to code is very high. He has concerns about it.
- Mrs. Tingey asked Mr. Wilcox to find out who is currently running the facility. Mr. Harper said prior to 2014, Granite received funding from the legislature to pay for the camp. But, those funds are no longer available. A 501C3 group came in. They are using the facilities and Granite is no longer directly associated with running the camp. Mrs. Tingey said we could let our schools know this facility is available if they can rent it out without committing as a district to a long-term investment.
- Mr. Wrigley said we have been looking at a summer school program for our underprivileged kids in Midvale. Having a program for them in Midvale might be a wiser use of \$300,000. We would be able to see an educational benefit from that type of program. We would probably be able to serve more kids without additional transportation costs.
- President Taylor said as a Board they have the obligation to look into opportunities for kids. They also need to decide if it is worth the money. He asked Mr. Wilcox to bring back the answers to the Board's questions at a future meeting.

B. Filling Canyons Seat on the USBA Board of Directors--Nancy Tingey

- Nancy Tingey explained that last week the USBA Board of Directors met in St. George. The President-elect of that association recently passed away which opened a vacancy. The Board of Directors determined to appoint someone to fill that position for this year until the January conference. Mrs. Tingey was appointed to fill that position. This appointment leaves our seat on the Board of Directors vacant. She wanted to know if anyone on the Board was interested in filling that vacancy until January. Mrs. Tingey has represented our District for the last three years so it would be finishing her second term. In January, the Board would appoint someone for a two-year term.
- The Board of Directors usually meets on Fridays. Each member of the Board of Directors has committee assignments. Committee meetings start at 9 am and the full Board has a meeting from noon to 4 pm. Meetings are scheduled for May 13, August 19, October 21, December 2 and January 5. The Canyons seat is currently assigned to participate on the MBA Committee. That committee will plan the New Board Member Workshop on December 3. They will also plan the President and Vice-President Workshop that will be held in February 2017. There would also be an opportunity to serve on the Joint Legislative Committee. This committee meets four or five times throughout the year and every week during the session.
- Mrs. Tingey said this is a great group of people to work with. The purpose of USBA is to train and strengthen local school boards. It is a great organization and she believes in what they are trying to do.
- She reviewed a flowchart of how USBA works. The membership includes members from each of the 41 school districts in Utah. Large districts have a member on the Board of Directors. Small districts are combined into regions including 3-7 districts and they elect a board member from their region to have a seat on the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee is the USBA leadership. This includes a president, vice president, president-elect and a past president. There is also a member of the Executive Committee representing the large districts and one representing a district region. The Executive Director is Richard Stowell.
- Amber Shill said she is willing to serve in this position. She had unanimous support from the rest of the Board.

- Leon Wilcox explained the Joint Legislative Committee is made up of Board members from local boards, superintendents statewide and business administrators statewide. The JLC reviews all of the legislative bills and then takes action on each bill that deals with education. The business administrators have asked Leon to represent them for the next one to two years on the JLC. He would review the school finance bills. It would be a few meetings a year outside of the legislative session and every Friday during the six-week session. Business administrators do not have a vote in the JLC. During the last session, he and Nancy attended all of the JLCs and Amber attended some of the meetings. When asked if he would serve in this position, Mr. Wilcox told them he would have to consult with his superintendent and Board before officially accepting the position.
- President Taylor said everyone knows we have Susan Edwards and Charlie Evans working on the hill for our interests. He asked how Nancy and Leon would respond if the position of their organization was contrary to what our Board wanted on a particular bill. We don't want to be at odds with what Charlie and Susan are doing when they are working for us. Nancy Tingey said she asked that exact question of the current USBA leadership. The response was they would never expect a Board member to take a position or speak in opposition of what their district feels. She would make that point known. Her experience over the last couple of years has been to encourage and help guide the committee to recognize the times when there is a differing opinion on specific bills. That is a signal to the committee that the USBA should not take a position on the bill because individual districts have differing opinions on it. Last year they passed on a number of bills for that reason. They are becoming more responsive to individual districts.
- Leon Wilcox said his responsibilities and duties are always to serve the Canyons Board of Education. The business administrator just provides information. He will not vote as to whether he supports a piece of legislation. His role would be advisory and he would be asked to show the financial impact to all districts statewide. As he has attended JLC meetings, he has never seen someone asked to sacrifice what he thinks is best for his district for the good of the whole. No one would expect that. In many fronts, we are all united. But, in other ways we compete with each other. Nancy Tingey stated that the business administrators provide a great resource. They have knowledge of how the numbers work. They can help the board members and superintendents understand what impact it would have in the operations of their districts. It would be helpful to have Leon there.
- Mr. Wrigley said he feels it is a great honor to have a place at the table. Nancy Tingey said it important that we have the ability to provide information and share our perspective. She has only seen respect for differing opinions. Mrs. Tingey said her number one concern is Canyons District. By having the larger education picture strengthened and improved, it helps us.
- President Taylor said he wants everyone to clearly understand what this encompasses. He doesn't want to see these good people put in a difficult position as it relates to the Board. Sounds like they won't be.
- Robert Green said this allows us to have a seat at the table and share our District's opinion. It is a benefit to us. Nancy and Leon are excellent people and this will be a good thing for everyone.
- Chad Iverson said this could only benefit the District.
- Nancy Tingey said as she has participated in JLC over the last few years, they have worked closely with Charlie and Susan. She thinks them being part of the discussion is good for their work.
- Amber Shill said she is excited for both Nancy and Leon. It is exciting to see that they are in leadership positions. It is great.

2. Business Meeting Opening 5:42 pm.

3. Opening Items

A. President Taylor opened the Business Meeting.

B. Approve Agenda for March 29, 2016

MOTION: Steve Wrigley moved to approve the Business Meeting Agenda for March 29, 2016. Robert Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of March Hire and Termination Reports
- B. Approval of LAND Trust Amendment
- C. Approval of Administrative Assistant Appointment

MOTION: Amber Shill moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Clareen Arnold seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Closing Items

A. Adjourned at 5:45 pm

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ATTEST

Sherril Taylor

President

James Briscoe

Superintendent